

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of May 21, 1996**

Present: Commissioners -

Burt Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association
Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner
Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Officer
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor
Mary Tuisku, Council Person, Hancock

National Park Service -

Bill Fink, KNHP Superintendent
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect
Lynn Bjorkmann, Preservation Planner
Ed Yarbrough, KNHP Historian
David Given, NPS, Deputy Field Director

Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer

Absent: Commissioner -

Peder Kitt, Calumet

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, May 21, 1996 in Calumet, Michigan at park headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair, Paul Lehto.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the February 6, 1996 KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Burt Boyum and seconded by Mary Tuisku, the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report

Bill Fink reported on the budget outlook saying it is still in a state of uncertainty. However, with the help of the National Park Service Midwest Field Office, he will be able to keep Ed Yarbrough and Lynn Bjorkmann on through the end of September. Yarbrough is a term employee which means he is employed as long as there is money for up to a term of 4 years. Bjorkmann is in a seasonal category. Fink went on to say that he believes the work his staff is doing is appreciated by the field area and recognized as critical and important. David Given, Deputy Field Director, has been working to extend Yarbrough and Bjorkmann's terms. Looking into the next fiscal year, which begins October 1, Fink said his best guess would be that the operations of all the park areas are going to increase by perhaps 1%, but most park operations will have a net loss of some money because of small pay raises of 3% which are still coming into effect. Fink explained that the President's budget request for FY 1997 is the same as last year. For the Keweenaw, the President is asking for additional funding for a full time interpretive specialist position for \$45,000. Congressman Bart Stupak has again asked for an additional \$300,000 for KNHP which would allow for administrative help and a permanent historical planner position and increase preservation assistance grants program. All of this was considered by Congress last year and not funded and will be considered this year again. Kathryn Eckert asked Bill Fink if

the NPS gives individual parks a target budget and does the superintendent then stay within that range. Fink said yes. Eckert suggested turning in a budget request exceeding the target budget to request funding for additional permanent staff positions.

The General Management Plan team members are currently doing an internal review of the GMP document, Fink said. The document will then go to a professional editor. The formal internal review of the document which the Park Service, Congressional people, and Advisory Commissioners will see should be ready 6 to 8 weeks from now. By the end of this fiscal year there should be one more public meeting to have formal public review. After this the document should be finalized and then prepared for publication in October or November of next year.

Fink said that two Challenge Cost Share proposals were submitted to the National Park Service by KNHP in cooperation with Calumet Township. The grant money being applied for is appropriated park service money that has been identified and held in a special restricted fund. That fund requires commitment from the community to be partners in the grant projects with matching funds. One project will rehabilitate the Captain's Office near the Coppertown Museum with plans to use it for a variety of visitor activities. The other project is to develop a walking tour which pass most of the major buildings and sites of the Calumet and Helca industrial core area. Wayside signs will be installed and there will be brochures along the designated walking trail. Both projects should be completed in late summer.

Fink introduced Clarence Monette, Vice President of the Copper Range Historical Society. Monette stated that the society would like its museum in South Range to become a cooperating site. He gave some background information on the society saying it was founded in 1988 with the objective of preserving the historical heritage of the mines and their surrounding communities which includes an area extending from Portage Lake to the southern end of Houghton County. He distributed copies of a current issue of *The Champion Line, The Newsletter of the Copper Range Historical Society* and a Copper Range Historical Museum brochure. Kathryn Eckert added that the Painesdale area is listed on the State and National Register as a significant early mining town which means it could easily be converted to a National Historic Landmark. Burt Boyum made a motion that the commission support the application pending clarification of the proper paperwork. Paul Lehto asked what guidelines should be used to consider a request to be a cooperating site. Fink said he has no formal guidelines in place yet. Instead, Fink said he considers the site's availability to the public and the relevance of the place as one of the area's major copper mining stories. He said he believes the society's request is supportable. Larry Lankton said he would like to see some standards or guidelines in place when considering places as cooperating sites. However, he said he supports the motion that the Copper Range area be a cooperating site. He added that he feels Painesdale is one of the finest old mine villages in the Keweenaw. On a motion by Burt Boyum supported by Larry Lankton, motion carried to accept application of the Copper Range Historical Society as a cooperating site.

Fink spoke of the impact a legislative familiarization trip to the Keweenaw could have on obtaining funding to implement projects. Kathryn Eckert said she feels that any legislative familiarization trip should be focused on Michigan legislators rather than members of Congress. Larry Lankton questioned why no one has tried to obtain funding for KNHP from the State of Michigan. Boyum commented that in the fall of 1991 when Senator Levin and Governor Engler were in the U.P. discussing park issues and cooperating sites, an estimate of eight million dollars was mentioned by the governor in support of the park as the state's share in the form of land or services or the like. In 1993 at a meeting attended by Brian Swift, U.P. aid to Governor Engler, with Calumet and Quincy people, Swift indicated that Engler still felt the eight million was a viable commitment. Governor Engler should be reminded of his commitment and the State of Michigan should have a substantial role in support of the park, Boyum added.

Larry Lankton said that a concerted effort really was never launched at Lansing for park support. Perhaps some specific project could be named and supported by the state. Clarence Dwyer also noted that again, no state representative is at today's meeting.

Kathryn Eckert asked David Given if other parks get good support from their state. Given said that Dayton, Ohio has tapped into state funding sources for its park and it is also a large city with the backing of big corporations.

Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski said he has been working with Superior National Bank, which is located at Mine Street Station, making recommendations on how the bank's facade can be more compatible to industrial core architecture. He has been talking to contractor, Tom Moyle, regarding the design of the motel to be constructed at Mine Street Station. New signage for the Chevrolet dealership is supposed to comply with the design of all dealerships across the country, Balachowski said, but the owner has conceded to the signage being more compatible with the area. Balachowski said he was called in to consult on a facade restoration of an office supply store in Calumet. However, restoration was started before Balachowski could make his recommendations.

Research Historian's Report

Ed Yarbrough reported that his Historic Resource Study should be ready in draft form by the end of this month. Historic Preservation Week planned by park staff was very well attended, he said. Some activities included researching historical properties, actual restoration work on some homes, and seeing some successfully completed projects in the village. Yarbrough said that he has been working with Josef Balachowski, Paul Lehto, and Richard Dana of Calumet on the walking tour for the Calumet industrial core. Photos and outlines have been put together of the various stops.

Yarbrough said he will be giving a presentation at the end of the month to the Association for Historical Museums of the Upper Midwest being hosted at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. He said he is beginning to schedule interpretive programs for the summer and he said he working on public education with Lynn Bjorkmann and Josef Balachowski and what ordinances can do for the communities in Calumet and Quincy as well.

Preservation District Progress Report

Lynn Bjorkmann said she has been working on efforts to begin a community awareness program. Part of this effort is the Historic Preservation Week activities to be held on Saturday, May 18. Visitors can get technical information and advice on building rehabilitation from Ed Yarbrough and Josef Balachowski. Erik Nordberg of MTU Archives will instruct visitors on researching the history of a house or commercial building. An important part of the day's events, Bjorkmann continued, will be the presentation of awards by the Calumet Village Planning Commission to honor preservation accomplishments by community members who have done an outstanding job of preservation efforts.

Professor Arnold Alanen of the University of Wisconsin brought seven graduate students to conduct survey work of mining company housing in Calumet Township. This work will further expand current information concerning company housing, Bjorkmann said. Faculty and students from MTU's graduate program in Industrial Archaeology met with the Wisconsin group and discussed their work documentation of mine housing.

Bjorkmann also said that in May the products of her Calumet Village, Laurium Village and Calumet Township survey will be delivered to the sponsoring local government units. These products of the survey are property information cards, photographs, maps, and an electronic data base and are needed to enact historic district preservation ordinances, she added. Frank Gilbert, Field Representative for the National Trust has also been providing technical assistance on a district ordinances for Calumet and Hecla industrial core.

Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto spoke of the two advisory commissioners subcommittees to be formed which were discussed at the previous commission meeting. The two proposed subcommittees are a Park Operations and Finance Committee and a Preservation Planning Committee. Lehto distributed a draft of the purposes and charges of the two committees. There was discussion on how the two committees could operate. Fink suggested that consultants could be called into work with subcommittees members, too. Mary Tuisku said that she thinks that subcommittees should not have authority to make decisions without first reporting back to the full advisory commission and added that she believes the subcommittees are a great idea. Lankton said that even though the subcommittees wouldn't have power and authority, they certainly could have input on rehabilitation projects and at least advise property owners on project plans impacting historic properties in or near the park. Lehto suggested that he, Clarence Dwyer, and Burt Boyum serve on the Operation and Finance Committee with Boyum as chair. Kathryn Eckert, Mary Tuisku, and Larry Lankton would serve on the Preservation Planning Committee with Lankton as chair. When the subcommittees meet they can revise the guidelines as they see fit. Fink added that possibly some travel costs connected with attending subcommittee meetings could be covered by park funds.

Chairman's Report

Paul Lehto reported that bids are in for a grant to replace the roof on the U.P Firemen's Museum. This project should be done by the end of summer.

Lehto distributed a copy of letter he sent to State of Michigan Real Estate Division. The State of Michigan is constructing a new state police post and Lehto asked that the old building which now houses the state police post in Calumet be donated to Calumet Township. This donation would help fulfil the state's pledge to assist in the establishment of the KNHP.

Lehto said he would like to obtain funding to stabilize the smokestack of Superior Boiler which belongs to Calumet Township.

Lehto asked Clarence Thomas, president of the Keweenaw Historical Society to talk about the Central Mine project. Thomas said that the society had the opportunity to purchase about 37 acres of Central Mine property including the church and 10 dwellings. The society hopes to have legal and financial details work out by the end of June and he added it is a great opportunity to capture and rehabilitate a unique piece of the area's history. Fink said he could extend the cooperating site support from the park toward this endeavor.

Commissioner's Reports

Boyum reported that he stayed on after the last advisory commission meeting to sit in for two days with the General Management Plan task force working on the GMP document. A section of the report has to do with hazardous material in the Keweenaw. Boyum said he must again comment on his contempt for the EPA and its report on hazardous material in the Keweenaw, saying it is one of the most unprofessional reports he's ever seen. The EPA report is looking at arsenic in the slag piles and Boyum contends that the contents held in the

glassy slag are not harmful. If the Quincy Smelter was donated by Ventures to the National Park Service, it is unlikely the Park Service could accept it because of the EPA report. Boyum would like to notify our state legislators that the EPA has taken a ridiculous stand on hazardous material. With this stigma attached to certain areas within park boundaries, significant properties and structures may not be able to be acquired by the park.

Boyum said that the KNHP Update No. 12 Newsletter omitted part of the report he submitted. He said the last paragraph was deleted. It said, "While the board of the Hoist Association works closely with the National Park Service, there is no Park Service money or services involved or provided in any of the activities of the Hoist Association." Boyum said that the tramway is financed by in EDA grant of \$420,000 with the balance of funds of \$200,000 to be raised by the Hoist Association as part of their match. Boyum said a frequently asked question of Hoist Association members is "Isn't the Park Service helping you on this?" Boyum said he deliberately put in the last paragraph in order to answer that question. Fink responded saying, he felt this was not a factual statement because the park service paid for the large map in the Quincy gift shop and, in addition, there is park service funding connected with the Hoist Association cooperating site agreement. Boyum made the request that in the future, he would appreciate knowing beforehand if his report is modified in any way.

Boyum said that ground breaking ceremony for the tramway was May 2. He thanked to Paul Lehto and others from Calumet area for attending. Boyum distributed a copy of the latest design for a tramway car from Hitch Inc. It may be ready by September if all goes well. Boyum said the association is very appreciative of the community support received on the capital fund drive. He added that the association is a 501(3)(3) corporation and donations are tax deductible.

Kathryn Eckert reported that her office has created World Wide Web pages. Eckert said she took updated photographs of Quincy and Calumet and these color images will accompany the text on the web site and will be seen on the network soon.

Eckert said the Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan publication is complete. She thanked Steve Albee of WUPPDR for his comments which improved the document. Lynn Bjorkmann's photo of housing in Laurium illustrates 3/4 of a page of the publication. An "action agenda" will be printed separately and come out at a later date, she added, and again she thanked Steve Albee for his input which she said helped to improve that document.

Eckert said that there is no money available under her office's grant program except to certified local governments this coming year. Eckert said her office reviewed 23 historic preservation ISTEA grants. Only two were from the Upper Peninsula. Her office supported both and returned its recommendations into the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Eckert attended the National Conference of Historic Preservation Officers annual meeting in Washington, DC recently and said she met with staff from the National Historic Landmark program to speak with them and request that they look at the Getty Foundation grant criteria because it may affect getting projects funded up here. The criteria states that property has to be individually listed as a National Historic Landmark. It cannot be merely a significant or contributing property within the Landmark designation. Eckert said the staff at the National Register and National Landmark agreed to speak with the Getty Foundation in order to encourage them to revise their criteria.

Eckert received a call from a Lansing construction firm which constructs schools and is disposing of architectural records of ink on linen drawings. No one in southern Michigan is interested in U.P. school

drawings. Eckert said she accepted the drawings and will pass them on to Erik Nordberg of the MTU Archives who will either keep or distribute them to local historical societies.

Larry Lankton reported that his book titled, *Beyond the Boundaries*, is now in the hands of the publishers. He said the book is a social history of settlements in the region between 1840 and 1875.

The Industrial Archeology program at Tech has anywhere from 6 to 10 graduate students in it at any given time, Lankton reported, and many are doing their masters projects related to the history of the Copper Country. Lankton offered the services of his students to help with park research if anyone had some specific project in mind. He said students in his class can earn grades in this manner rather than taking exams.

A new masters program in Environmental Policy is now being offered in Social Sciences at Tech, Lankton said. A recently hired environmental policy faculty member did his dissertation on the making of a superfund site and, in addition, is an environmental historian so this may be someone who could contribute his expertise to the park.

Mary Tuisku commented on the demolition of the Finlandia building in Hancock saying that there was a concerted effort made to find a developer to restore the building, but to no avail. The lesson to be learned here, she said, is to not let a building get into such disrepair that it is beyond restoration. She added that Hancock is working to educate its residents to maintain their property.

Tuisku suggested that Josef Balachowski contact the Hancock school superintendent and the school board and offer his historic architect services to them regarding their plans to build a new high school particularly if it is to be built near the Quincy portion of the park.

Josef Balachowski said he would like to comment on the construction of the Hancock High School saying that it seems there is a lust to build new and abandon the old. He said compared to new construction costs, rehabilitation costs can be much less. He feels there needs to be a concerted effort, perhaps by the advisory commissioners, political leaders in the area, and certainly anyone with any influence to look carefully at all options to determine if upgrading wouldn't be the better way to go before buildings are discarded.

Tuisku stressed the importance of getting state legislators' support for the park and not just local representatives.

Hancock Historic Preservation Commission is working on becoming a CLG (Certified Local Government) Tuisku said.

Tuisku also asked Fink when Advisory Commissioner Peder Kitti will be replaced. Fink said not in the foreseeable future, particularly with the national elections coming up.

Clarence Dwyer asked Fink if the request to recommend purchasing the building which currently houses KNHP headquarters has been made to the Trust for Public Lands. Fink said he began putting together a request and then drew back because in looking at funding, it might not be in anybody's best interest right now to acquire buildings if there is not funding for staff to run them. Fink doesn't feel that the headquarters building is in any eminent danger of being sold out from under the park. The doctors who own the building are aware that the park would like to purchase the building, Fink said. Dwyer commented that he has heard rumors that there are various groups of people interested in acquiring the building. Fink said he hopes that the building can be acquired directly by the Park Service possibly with community involvement and bypass the Trust for Public Lands. Fink added the Trust for Public Lands would hesitate to do anything until the GMP

document is completed and it is stated in the plan to acquire the building. Dwyer said he would like to volunteer his services to keep in touch with the doctors who own the building. He then asked for permission to contact the doctors and report back at the next Advisory Commission meeting regarding their intentions.

Comments from the Midwest Field Office

David Given said the Park Service is faring better than most other agencies in the federal government as far as budgeting is concerned. President Clinton is very supportive of the Park Service and this evidenced by requests in the budget for increases in the administration's budget. If the President's budget is adopted that would mean a 3% increase in the budget for all National Park units and for Keweenaw a 15% increase since some money would be specifically earmarked for an interpretive specialist position. Given encouraged working with state and federal legislators to keep them informed of KNHP needs. He said he feels bringing them to the area would be very instructive.

Given said the GMP document is scheduled to be finished by this fiscal year at least through the public review process.

Report and Comments from Special Guests

Sue Cone of Calumet said she would like to again ask the park to please find a way to fund Lynn Bjorkmann's position for the next fiscal year. She suggested revising the park's budget categories in order to allot the funding necessary to support Bjorkmann's position.

There was general discussion from both the commissioners and audience members on tighter control of rehabilitation of mine company housing and downtown structures. Kathryn Eckert stressed the need for education programs to show property owners the importance of rehabilitating structures correctly whether people are spending state or federal money or their own money.

Jim Vivian Sr. asked Fink what the status is on the cooperating site agreement between Quincy Mine Hoist Association and KNHP. Fink said the revised agreement is in the hands of the Hoist Association for signature. Once it is signed by both the park and the Hoist Association, a separate sub-agreement will be done releasing cooperating site funds. Boyum suggested that once the site agreement is approved, it could serve as a model for other sites.

Vivian spoke of the proposed access road on Quincy Hill which would be the main access to the future location of Portage Hospital. Referring to the concern Larry Lankton expressed at a previous advisory commission meeting on the location of the road, Vivian said he has set up a meeting between the engineer designing the road and Hancock City Manager Glen Anderson. Vivian asked Larry Lankton if he would attend the meeting also.

Vivian said an ordinance should be put in place for the Quincy area soon since it is the gateway to the park and is the first impression visitors receive of the park.

Vivian questioned the expansion the park is taking on by accepting additional cooperating sites right now. He said he feels this would dilute what little resources and staffing the park has. The core area of the park, in the meantime, is falling apart because of lack of resources and suggested concentrating on the core area first.

Erik Nordberg of the MTU Archives spoke of Lake Superior Land Company of Calumet which was recently

acquired by Champion International, a timber and land management company. Champion uses a centralized records management control system and requires its subsidiaries to retain only those documents that are used in day-to-day operations. As a result, Lake Superior Land Company recently removed a large variety of records from its premises that it had inherited from Universal Oil Product, the successor of Calumet and Hecla Consolidated Mining Company. Nordberg thanked Joe Mehall of Calumet for alerting several individuals of Lake Superior Land Company's plans to discard this documentation of employee records dating from 1912 through 1970 as well as other corporate records. Some material is now at the Coppertown Museum for use in displays and interpretive programs, but most of it has been added to the MTU Archives which houses a large amount of C&H material.

There being no further questions or comments, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, August 6, 1996 at 8:30 a.m. at KNHP Headquarters in Calumet.